

Red Foxes



- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not provide nuisance fox control.
 - **DO NOT FEED FOXES!** Keep all pet food and water inside!
 - Keep compost piles covered (never include bones or animal fat).
 - Do not feed feral cats.
 - Secure domestic birds in sturdy enclosures.
 - Seal holes in structures to eliminate potential shelter.
 - Maintain lawns to eliminate cover for potential prey items.
 - For more information on hunting and trapping foxes:
 - [Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)
 - You may live trap and relocate foxes without a permit (**Title 76**).

Biological Information

Distribution: throughout Louisiana, except extreme southeast parishes; ranges from northern Canada and Alaska to the southern U.S., except Arizona, southern Texas, extreme SE Atlantic coast, the Great-Basin, the Great Plains, and coastal western Canada

Habitat: mixed wooded areas with ungrazed pastures, ricefields, canefields, and chenier of the SW coastal marshes; makes a den in stream banks or gullies

Appearance: small doglike animal, adult weights 8-14 pounds; total length is 3-4 feet (12-17 inches of which is tail); body is reddish yellow; feet, legs, ears and nose pad are black; terminal 4-5 inches of tail are black tipped with white; it has 42 teeth; eyes are yellow with elliptical pupils

Reproduction: breed in late winter or

early spring, 53 days gestation, 2-10 per litter, both male and female raise the young, weaned at 2 months

Food habits: small mammals such as rats, mice, and rabbits, insects, wild birds, young livestock (as carrion), fruits, berries, grasshoppers, snakes

Habits: keen sense of sight, hearing and smell; shy, easily startled; great endurance (can run for miles); playful; they do not chew food, rather tear pieces off and swallow whole; bury their left over food; mark their territory through urination

Controls: vulnerable to diseases such as parvo and mange (which is caused by mites)

Values: contribute to the overall health of prey species by keeping the species controlled; they are vulnerable to rabies, which can then infect pets and humans.